

**Bench Bar Media Conference
February 17, 2000**

Minutes

The Bench Bar Media Conference met on February 17, 2000. Superior Court Judge Judge John E. Babiarz, Jr. discussed the Report of the Task Force on More Effective Use of Juries. The report proposed constitutional amendments for trial by jury in criminal cases, civil cases involving the government and other civil cases only upon order of the court. It was noted that the 7th Amendment was never incorporated through the 14th Amendment. Would the proposals in the report raise questions of due process under the Federal Constitution?

The Conference discussed the issue of contact with jurors. The ABA Model Rules permit the contact. The Delaware Rules of Professional Conduct forbid the contact. The federal courts are in the process of adopting and modifying their rule.